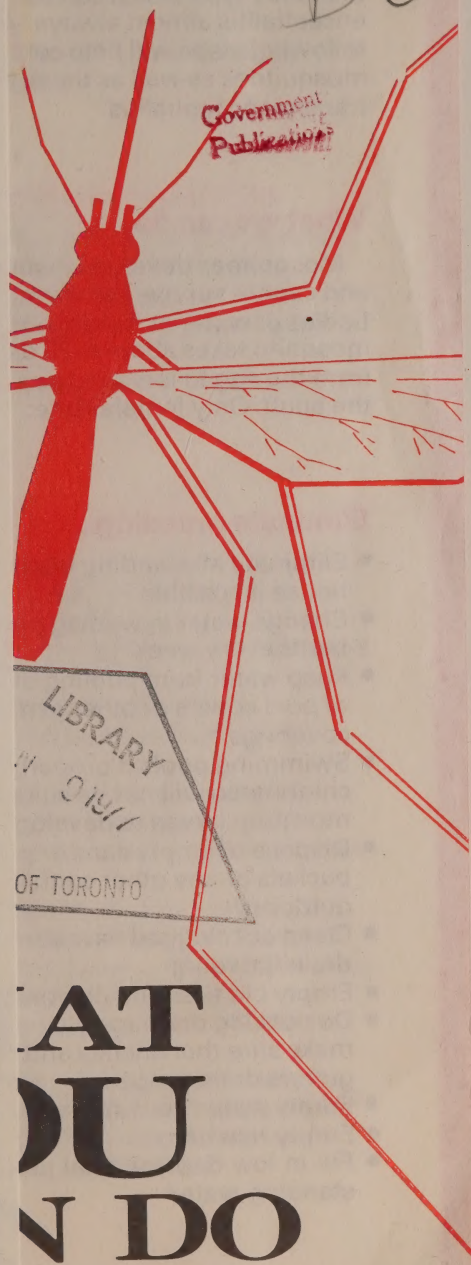




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MOSQUITO CONTROL

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

Mosquitoes and Encephalitis

Few types of mosquitoes transmit encephalitis. The *Aedes* mosquito most frequent in the spring has not been associated with this disease. Mosquitoes of the *Culex* type which can transmit encephalitis almost always bite birds. The following steps will help control nuisance mosquitoes as well as those which might transmit encephalitis.

What we can do!

Mosquitoes develop usually in still water and cannot survive the wave action of open bodies of water or flowing streams. The mosquito takes about 5-28 days to develop from the egg to larvae to pupae and then to the adult. Only females bite.

Eliminate breeding sites

- Eliminate all standing water around the house if possible
- Change water in wading pools or bird baths every week
- Keep water from pooling on the surface of pool covers or other similar plastic coverings
- Swimming pools if properly filtered and chlorinated will not be suitable for mosquito larvae to develop
- Dispose of empty cans or pails, upend buckets or any other container that is left outdoors
- Clean out clogged eavestroughs and drain flat roofs
- Empty old tires and dispose of them
- Do not clog drainage ditches with trash; make sure that ditches and driveway gutters drain properly
- Empty water from stored boats
- Empty rain barrels
- Fill in low depressional areas to prevent standing water

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Outdoors

- Reduce the amount of vegetation through mowing weeds and grass, trimming hedges and removing unnecessary shrubbery and trees which protect the adult mosquito against sun and wind
- Use netting over carriages when babies are left outside

What can you do to avoid bites

- Restrict outdoor activity in the evening when mosquitoes are most active
- Repair the holes in window or door screens and make sure the screens are tight
- Close the damper on your fire place when not in use

Personal Protection

- If you are working or visiting in areas where mosquitoes are abundant, wear loose protective clothing, i.e. long-sleeved shirt, light jacket, slacks and socks
- Lighter coloured clothing is less attractive to mosquitoes than is dark clothing
- Use common sense; mosquitoes are most active in the evening and can be bothersome in wooded areas during the day
- Use repellents—keep them out of your eyes and mouth. Always read the label and follow instructions. Those containing higher concentrations of active ingredient usually are more effective

Insecticides are available which may provide temporary relief. Use pesticides safely—carefully follow manufacturer's instructions and read the label.

Encephalitis

In 1975, a type of encephalitis spread by certain mosquitoes occurred in Ontario for the first time. There were about 70 cases, mostly in Southwestern Ontario.

Weather conditions were better in 1976. And the Ontario Ministries of Environment and Health worked with municipalities and the public to combat mosquitoes where they bite and where they breed.

Only four cases of encephalitis were reported. We were lucky. But we were also prepared. We will be prepared again this summer.

The mosquitoes, which get the virus from certain birds, bred faster than usual in a combination of hot sun and rain. It could happen again, so doctors and scientists are watching for it and anti-mosquito programs are under way.

Prevention is important, since there is no known treatment for the disease. Symptoms of encephalitis include drowsiness, loss of appetite, fever, headache, nausea and vomiting.


It must be emphasized that most mosquito bites this summer will be simply a nuisance. However, should symptoms occur, you should consult your family doctor.



Ontario

Hon. George A. Kerr, Q.C.,
Minister of the Environment

Hon. Dennis Timbrell
Minister of Health



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